CITY AFFAIRS

EXING AND CP AUTTY LIGHT MAT

ars With & .rfling Revela-New Hose Wagon Ordered --Paving Operations -- And Other

oard of Alderman met in regu thly session last night.

man Leach, from the street comsaid that Person street was now with storm water when storms , and that to obviate this certain work would be necessary. about \$408.75. He also reported 850 square yards of macng had been completed on street, also 350 square paving blocks. He stated that k of improvement on Hillsboro could be completed by Tuesday. ch also submitted cuts of street s, and thought that if the board fford the expenditure, that the ing of a street sweeper to cost ould be a salutary proceeding. ter matter was referred to the ommittee with instructions to report and recommendation at

man Womble, from the fire combmitted a report recommend-\$350 be appropriated for the of a hose wagon to be used by one fire company in place of the w used as a part of the outfit of pany. The report was adopted appropriation was made.

Thompson, who is a member of committee to report some or improving the sidewalks, subreport on the matter. It set t the best and most feasible the opinion of the committee, and the citizens would be to ek pavement two feet wide on idewalks; that the sidewalks ade of from two to six inches e street drains; that the cost pavement be charged to the owners. It was also suggested pixture of gravel and sand be each side of the brick pavement. bort, though an exceedingly imone, was left on the table with-

oard adopted a motion which rehe Richmond & Danville railroad on Cannon street.

The Light Question.

chestnutty question of "city somehow found its way before rd. When it came up it threw a them were in favor of "doing ng," and said so, but nobody know what in creation to do. as some discussion of the light of time some of the aldermen were anding that that conframed as to let

etty much as it the city couldn't further parley, T. C. Harris be ower of the lights . This was about could do. year were made the

ding submitted a llowing effect: That ordinances regarding any citizen feeling n avoid the listing of certain kinds of prop to taxation, and the board to compel such persons to compel, and recommended the to appointed to report method for remedy-

dation was adopted and

signed by a large business men of the inted, requesting that the of auction bells along the city be prohibited and was adopted. It was ordered ring of bells be confined to where the auctions are to be that the ringing be limited to

EW COURT DECISION

he Right of the W. U. Tele-

By United Press. 1

RAPIDS, Mich., Oct. 3 .- The ade in the United States court is very important to the entire it affects the right of the on Telegraph company to for their wires. It is the court that the act of Confiting the Western Union to he government postal routes to heir wires is permissive only, and the States and use the highways

liar and Successful Suit Against other-in-Law For Damages.

[By United Press.]

y State authority.

ER, Col., Oct. 3. -The suit by Mrs. Kate Williams, of New gainst her mother-in-law, Mrs. illiams, of Brooklyn, has been in favor of the plaintiff. In her ot Mrs. Kate Williams asserted mother in-law was the cause of nd's abandoning her. She ,000 damages. The jury yeswarded her \$12,500.

Awtuland Fatal Mistake.

[By United Press.] MBUS, Miss., Oct. 3. - Within the days the residence of Mr. E. R. of this place, has been entered times by a burglar. Night before rry Calhoun and his young friend Mahon, were watahing for the when Mrs. Calhoun gave the The boys were in different parts rounds and Mahon mistaking the burglar, fired and killed

fistantly.

THE K. OF L. SHUT OUT.

Membership in the Organization Will Prevent Men Being Finployed by the New York Central Road.

(By United Press.

NEW YORK, Oct. 3.—The New York Central officials have decided that no more Knights of Labor shall be employed on the road, and to-day Vice-President Webb issued a circular directing the heads of the various departments to make their decision known. The circular is addressed to the General Manager, General Superintendent, Chief Engineer and Superintendent of motive power and rolling stock, as to the recent strike and acts of lawlessness committed in connection therewith, the published correspondence between the leaders of the organization that ordered it, and the fact that many men now seeking re-employment state that they quit work from fear of personal violence, and did not gare to offer to resume work for the same reason, compel the management of the company to announce that it objects to its employes being members of the organization known as the "Knights of Labor." The management is satisfied that membership in this particular organization is inconsistent with faithful and efficient service to the company and liable at any time to prevent it from properly discharging its duties to the public. They will at once take such action as will bring this circular to the attention of employes in their respective departments.

General Superintendent Voorhees said to day that the circular means precisely what it says. The Knights must either or leave the road.

A TERRIBLE REVENGE.

Two Discharged Farm Hands Abduct and Maltreat Their Employer's Daughter.

[By United Press.]

BARRYVILLE, Pa., Oct. 3.-Two discharged colored farm hands of John Hannon, a well to do farmer of this place, kidnapped his daughter, Julia, aged twenty, last Monday week, took her to a hut in a ravine and kept her and at once to such measures as | there until Tuesday noon, assaulting her are the earliest construction of a repeatedly and forcing whiskey down and foot bridge across the rail- her throat. Then they left her. The fiends names are Samuel Johnson and Jack Williams.

A searching party went out when she failed to return home, but it was not until Wednesday that she was found. a dumb chill over the board. She was almost insane and in her rayings accused Johnson and Williams. The men have not yet been captured.

Horses and Vice Consuls.

(By United Press.)

London, Oct. 3.-The British Vice Consul at Los Angeles, Cal., recently in a report to his government, praised the superior horses bred in Southern California and the splendid prices they command in the markets of the world. After extolling the worth of the English bred horse, the Yorkshire Post says editori-

"Perhaps it would be well to suggest to the foreign office that we should have a different breed of Vice Consul at Los Angeles from the one now on view there. A Chinaman could probably be got to do the work of the post at considerably less cost and, to judge by the example before us with quite as great concern for Briti-h interests. The present Vice Consul states that horses can be fed at much smaller cost in Southern California than here, as owing to the mildness of climate they can graze all the year, and no doubt a Chinaman as Vice Consul would be economical, as he could vary his consular by taking in washing.

The Social Lion Bismarck Continues to Enjoy Life.

[By United Press.]

BERLIN, Oct. 3 .- Prince Bismark, who recently remarked to an interviewer that he proposed to continue enjoying life, and did not intend to spend his time Use Highways for Stringing like a bear in winter sucking paws, is carrying out this policy by an elaborate system of entertainments at his palace in Freidrichshrue. He has also just announced a series of great fetes to be given during the winter. His receptions are always thronged, and he is the chief social lion of the day.

THE VALUE OF AFFECTIONS.

A Baltimore Jury Say They are Worth

\$10,000. [By United Press.]

Baltimore, Md., Oct. 2.—The jury, in the case of John Siebrecht against Wm. H. Evans, for \$75,000 damages for the alleged alienation of the affections of Mrs. Wilhelmina Siebrecht, now Mrs. Evans, presented a sealed verdict last night, which was this morning read in court. It gives the plaintiff \$10,000.

Throws Himself on the Mercy of the Court.

[By United Press.]

COLUMBUS, Ind., Oct. 3.-William H. Schrieber, the confidential book-keeper of the First National Bank of this city, who in 1888 robbed the bank of \$300,000 in cash and ponds, and who was captured in Detroit and yesterday lodged in jail, broke down before the bank officials and turned over all of the ill-acquired wealth that he had not already spent. He will throw himself on the mercy of the court on a plea of guilty.

Continued Cruelty to the Jews.

(By United Press.)

LONDON, Oct. 3.—Letters from Russia states that the epidemic of cruelty to fury.

THE PIEDMONT METROPOLIS.

Rumors and Reports of Mighty Doings --- A New Railroad in Prospect for Stokes County -- Which Will Open up

Immense Iron Fields. (Special Cor. STATE CHRONICLE.)

WINSTON, N. C., Oct. 3.—There is considerable excitement over the purchasing of several iron properties in Stokes county the past few weeks by parties who, it is said, represent large English syndi-

Last Friday one of the parties that had contracted for a \$50,000 purchase was heard to say that a railroad would soon run through Danbury and develop that iron section of the county. To day it was learned from parties from that place that this was a certainty. Danbury will surely get a railroad but from which direction and built by whom it is not yet exactly known. It is intimated that the Roanoke & Southern may build it from Walnut Cove, but it is also intimated that the Danville & East Teneral lands up there and will surely run from Danville to Bristol through the northern portion of the county. Some say that the C. F. & Y. V. will construct it in order to have another iron works to haul coal. All these are mere theories. But two things are certain. The first is that Stokes county will have another railroad at an early date, and the second is that there will be some large mines of iron ore developed in that county.

It is rumored that the Roanoke and Southern road will go into a co-partnership with the Philadelphia capitalists in the building of the iron and steel give up their membership in the order | works here. The woods is full of rumors and there is no telling what the next year will bring forth.

> Mr. Pepper, the editor of the Danbury Reporter and Post is evidently coining the "filthy lucre" up in the northern end of the county. He has, in company with others, already sold \$50,000 worth of mineral lands and is engaged in confirming a trade with another company that will bring in \$87,500. North Carolina can some day boast of a wealthy newspaper man-about the time Ramkhatte has a metropolitan museum.

This has been another busy month with the manufacturers of this city. They only lacked a few thousand to have plug. It is thought that the coming year the sales in leaf and plug will surpass those of any other market in the

Winston's board of school commis sioners have made another valuable addition to the faculty of the graded school. Miss Anna R. Neal, of Marion, a young lady of rare attainments, who has for the past year or so been principal of the Virginia Dare Institute at Concord, has been elected to the position of teacher in our city schools. She is a graduate of Greensboro Female College, receiving the valedictory in the largest class that has ever graduated

The work has commenced on the foundation of the new \$100,000 hotel to be built by the West End Hotel and Land Company in the Western suburbs of the city. Fourth street is being straightened and prepared for the extension of the electric street car line to the front of the hotel. The iron has been ordered to lay the track.

Col. A. C. Davis informed your correspondent vesterday that the opening this year of the Davis Military School was far better than any previous opening in the history of the school.

Two cars of the East bound R. and D. passenger train yesterday ran off of the track as they were passing across an open switch. No damage was done.

Lieut. Gov. Thos. M. Holt is in the city to-day prospecting. He thinks of investing here, so I learn.

Maj. Wm. A. Hearne and wife are spending a while in Salem. M. VICTOR.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

Col. Al Fairbrother arrived here last night, and will go to Darham to-morrow and take charge of the Globe.—Henderson Tomahawk.

Senator Z. B. Vance was asked by a Greensboro man how heavy he was. He replied that he "did not know his weight in pounds, but he was Leavy enough for any rad he had met yet."

The CHRONICLE has to thank its friend. Mr. F. L Stephenson, for some fine turnips. We have alway had enough of the Micawber nature to believe that if we densed and run off into tanks, three would wait something would "turn up."

Dr. Annie Alexander and Miss Cora Vail left yesterday for a trip to New York and several of the Northern cities. Dr. Alexander will take a special clinical course of six weeks at one of the metropolitan hospitals.

We regret to learn that Rev. G. C. Rankin the popular pastor of the Central Methodist church for the last three years is to leave Asheville. He has been transferred to the Missouri conference, and will have a church in Kansas City. Rev. S. H. Hilliard will be in charge of the Asheville church till the Western North Carolina conference meets in Concord in November.-Asheville Demo-

The Election in Idaho.

(By United Press.)

Boise City, Idaho, Oct. 3.—Complete returns from seven counties out of eighteen in the State give Sweet, (Republican), for Congress 1,500 majority. The rest of the State ticket is Republican by about the same majority. The legisla-ture will probably stand thirty five Rel altar the general result.

THE PINE TREE.

CAROLINA OIL AND CREOSOTE CO. OF WILMINGTON, N. C.

A Full and Accurate Description of the Process of Making Creosote-Wilmington Ahead.

BY T. H. PRITCHARD.

NO. 2. [Special Cor. State Chronicle.]

In my first article I claimed that Wilmington was still entitled to be styled "THE CITY OF THE PINE" by reason of the remarkable application of the green pine straw in manufacturing fibre, matting, bagging and medicated oils. wish to show in this article that she still more worthily wears this honor, because here for the first time, certainly the first on a large scale in the United States, if not in the world, an essential oil of the pine has been extracted and applied for nessee line is doing large buying of min- the preservation of timber exposed to the atmosphere and the insects of the

I find that in 1838, John Bethel, of England, used a distillate of coal-tar called "dead oil" for preserving wood from which it is claimed the "creosoting process" originated, though he makes no mention whatever of "creosote." As the encyclopedias do not seem to know anything of WOOD CREOSOTE, I take it for granted that this is semething new, and yet in its infancy, so far as its useful application is concerned.

Dr. Frank Clark, of Wilmington, an E. M. and Ph. D. of Columbian University, New York, and a young man of remarkable scientific attainments, defines creosote thus: "Creosote, in the popular sense, is a general name given to certain oily products obtained from the destructive distillation of wood, coal, and other carbonacious materials. When obtained from coal tar, it is called dead-oil or sure. coal-tar creosote, and wood creosote oil when ob ained from the distillation of wood. In either case the resulting oil is What People Outside of Winston an excellent preservative of wood and timber treated therewith, and is known

as creosoted timber." Though excellent for preserving wood, the coal tar distillates were found to be too costly for general use, and in the search for a cheaper oil, possessing the essential properties, our native pine, the shipped last month a million pounds of most useful of all trees, came into play again, and in it were found heavy creosote oils, which have many of the special qualities of the coal-tar creosote. Both are highly antiseptic in their nature, being poisonous to insect life; both have a pungent odor intensely disagreeable, if not deadly to all such; both contain thick, heavy oils, which seem to fill and close the pores of the wood so as to exclude air and water, the two special

elements which produce decay. It is claimed that timber treated at these works has been in use at Key West, Charleston harbor and other places on the Atlantic Coast for seven years and still remains intact, while untreated piles have been destroyed by the TOREDO in one or two seasons, and that timber treated by them is rendered far more valuable for the construction of wharves, docks, quays, pires, hidges, trestles, fences, telegraph huts, wood pavements, conduits and all sorts of boats and ships.

The company has sent timbers entirely across the continent to the Pacific Coast; they have loaded nine large ships for the Nicaraugua Canal; have supplied northern cities with conduits for the streets, and are now filling a heavy contract for the mining company in Cuba. I am no scientist and if I were your

readers would not be edified by the use of technical terms; so, as I have been much interested in examining the works, one of my sons being employed there, I will, in my own way, seek to describe the manner in which the cresote is extracted and applied, though I am not sure that I can make myself fully under-

How the Creosote Oil is Obtained. The oil is obtained from the destructive distillation of resinous pine, or what is commonly known as FAT LIGHTWOOD. This wood is placed in iron cylinders, six feet in diameter and twenty s x feet long, two of them cylinders, with the masonry enclosing them, constituting what is called a RETORT, and each retort contains eight cords of wood. These retorts have solid brick foundations, each with four furnaces under it, one at each of the four ends of the retort. and these are constructed with air chambers and flues, which, while they do not allow the fire to come into actual contact with the cylinders, yet envelop them on all sides in a fierce heat. This great heat slowly converts the wood into gas and carbon. The gas, rising to the top of the cylinder, passes into an iron pipe-thence into a still or worm, much like that used in the disrunnings constituting a charge. The results are liquids to the astonishing amount of about 225 gallons to the cord of wood, and are denominated, pyroligunous acid, light, and heavy oil. The acid remains at the bottom of the tank, while the oils, being lighter run to the top. From this tank the acid is drawn off by pipes and conveyed to a factory, where alcohol is made from it. This alcohol can not be used for drinking purposes, as the cresote taste can never be entirely destroyed-but it is said to answer every purpose when used | the German plantations. in medicines and the mechanic arts.

drawn off into different tanks. As the oil is still somewhat mixed with acid, it as it is called, where by chemical process | beasts. the oil is separated from the acid and all foreign substances. The oil is then stored in large tanks for use. The company are now running as many as 26 retorts which are capable of producing an immense amount of oil.

How the Oil is Applied.

a car adapted to the capacity of the cyl- I wood county.

of these cars is drawn into the cylinder by steam, its massive doors are closed and made absolutely air-tight. The timber now enclosed is subjected to a process of heat and vacuum which dries it out and extracts the water from it. The length of time thus occupied depends upon the dryness or greenness of the material. The cylinder is then pumped full of oil, which has been heated, hot oil being much more effective, and after it is full the pump is still kept at work till a tremendous pressure is brought to

inder into which it enters. When one

bear to force the oil into the pores of the wood. The guage is taken when the pressure is first applied and the pressure is continued till the guage shows that the required amount of oil has been injected into the wood. The time and pressure are determined by the quality of the wood and the amount of oil desired per cubic foot-if dry and it is necessary to have 10 or 12 lbs. of oil to

required. There is a branch of this establishment at Fernandina, Florida, and these are the only two creosote factories that I am acquainted with.

the cubic foot, from 12 to 18 hours are

\$75,000, but the company is authorized for Wake Forest college, and the libto employ a capital of half a million of eral offer of Mr. Bostwick, of New York,

Hon. Warner Miller, of New York, is the President, A. A. Thomas, of Washington, the General Superintendent, but the present manager who is actually in charge of the works, is Capt. Kennish, a very accomplished scientist and civil engineer. His standing in his profession may be known when I shall tell you that he built the pedestal of the Bartholdi Statue of Liberty in New York harbor and also the Ponce-de-Leon hotel of St. Augustine, by all odds the finest hotel in the world.

The creosote mills are at the foot of Dawson street, near the cotton factory and I beg leave to suggest to strangers visiting this city to call and examine them-they will be richly repaid, I am

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Think of its Advancement.

(Twin-City Daily.)

We had the pleasure of a conversation with Mr. P. M. Wilson, secretary of the West End Land Company, vesterday evening and were glad to hear him give such splendid accounts of the good feeling everywhere toward Winston's growing industries and new residence

"How do people like the plan of selling the West End lots?"

"First class. They appreciate the fairness in giving people away from here an equal chance with stockholders of the company residents of the town at any lot, and they think that where several people pick out the same lot the fairest thing to do is for them to draw for it, to see who shall get it."

"How will you do that?" "Oh, like the Sheriff draws a jury-

ny simple, fair way. "When will that be done?"

"On the evening of October 7th." "Do the people think the terms easy?" "Yes, they think them very liberal"

"Do they think the lots high?" "No, sir. The only objection I have ever had to meet is 'I haven't got any money.' I tell you, people away from here understand better than our homefolks here do, that we are the second biggest city in the State, and growing faster than any one of them. They understand better than we do here, that in a year we will be on three big through lines. The Richmond & Danville will be nearly to Bristol and will soon be connected with the Western road. That the Roanoke & Southern will be connected with the Norfolk & Western, the Shenandoah Valley, and most likely the Baltimore & Ohio, and will be on its way to the great Piedmont & Seaboard

air-lines to Atlanta. "Then, too, about our hotel. They are delighted with the plans. We are asking the best builders to bid on it, and the requirement is that it must be built right away. You know that the company is bound in a heavy bond to build in a reasonable time a first-class hotel which, with improvements, will cost a hundred thousand dollars and will be a beautiful building and an ornament to the town and the pride of this section.

"How are the lots selling?" "Right along. I sold a dozen in one day. The people believe in Winston because its genuine, no sham, indepen dent, stands on its own bottom and is the best town in the South.

THE VITU MASSACRE.

How the Germans Were Murdered-and Their Bodies Left to the Prowling

[By United Press.]

ZANZIBAR, Oct. 3 .- Details of the massacre by natives of the Germans at Vitu have reached this city. Four of the victims were put to death just outside the gate of Vitu. Three others, after a pursuit of several miles, were captured and were also immediately killed Kuntzel was the last man to meet death. Menschel, who was wounded, managed to escape by concealing himself in the tall grass. When all this had been done the murderous natives went to Kuntzel's camp and completed their bloody work by killing the camp guards and a planter named Dehnke. They then destroyed

Permission to remove the bodies of The light and heavy oils are also the slain from the places where they fell and inter them was refused, and they had to be left exposed to the African is afterwards run into a MIXTURE tank, climate and the hunger of prowling

> Jas. Owenby Ex-Sheriff of Haywood County Killed by a Freight Train.

(Special to STATE CHRONICLE.)

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Oct. 3 .- Jas. Owenby, of Waynesville, while crossing the There are four large iron cylinders, 6 railroad track near Candler Station last feet in diameter, 66, 75, 88, and 100 feet | night with his horse and wagon, was long, and known as Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. struck by a freight train and both he and publicans to nineteen Democrats. Full Along the wharf, and running into each his horse instantly killed. He was fifty Our people will tell you how to make the Jews continues to rage with uabated returns are slow coming in, but will not of these are four railways, each having years old and was once Sheriff of Hay- them.

THE CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSO-CIATION.

New Church Admitted .- Vigorous Reports on Missions, Etc -- A New Baptist Church for Raleigh.

(Special Cor. of STATE CHRONICLE.) WEDNESDAY MORNING, Oct. 1st.-The association met at 10 o'clock.

One new church was received into the membership of the association-"Harris Chapel." The report on foreign missions shows

an increase over last year's work. The association raised this year for foreign missions \$1,105.

The report on State missions was encouraging. The association pays \$1,000 to this object. Afternoon Session.

Dr. Taylor made a report on colportage, and recommends that a suitable man be employed to engage in this work.

The report on Education was read and discussed by Prof. J. B. Carlyle, representing the board at Wake Forest College. N. Y. Gully spoke in behalf of the I presume the plant here represents great need of an increased endowment agreeing to give one dollar for every two that we would raise by the first of March. 1891.

Dr. Carter made a strong speech in behalf of female education, and the proposed Baptist University at Raleigh. The report was adopted. Pledges were made by the churches for education.

Thursday Morning. The report on periodicals was read and

discussed by Dr. C. T. Bailey. The report on the Baptist Orphanage was read and discussed by Rev. C.J. Woodren, Dr. Carter and Rev. W. R. Gwaltey. The report shows that the Baptists are standing nobly by this Orphanage, and God is wonderfully blessing it. A collection was immediately taken

amounting to \$43,10. The report on Sunday-schools shows that there is a Sunday-school membership in the twenty churches of nearly twenty-five hundred, and these schools

have raised during the year about \$450. Rev. O. L. Stringfield represented the interest of the Third church in Raleigh. The association and churches responded liberally in cash and pledges. This church is to be moved, and a nice house built on Fayetteville street. Doubtless Bro. Stringfield will push the work and soon have another elegant Baptist church on one of the prettiest lots in Raleigh.

Afternoon Session. The report on home missions was read. Rev. B. Cade and brethren N. Y. Gully, O. E. Brewer and B. W. Spillman were appointed as a committe to apportion the churches for the amount of home missions the association is to raise. The reports are very encouraging from

this department of our work. A resolution was introduced to change the time of meeting of the association to Wednesday before the first Sunday in

August. Adopted. Bro. N. Y. Gully was appointed as representative from this Association to the Southern Baptist convention, which meets in Birmingham, Ala., next May; Bro. C. W. Johnson as alternate. Brethren W. L. Poteat, Buffaloe and W. R. Walters , were appointed delegates to the Baptist State convention, which meets in Shelby in November.

A vote of thanks by rising was extended to the citizens for their kind hospitality to the association. Thus closed a most pleasant and profitable session of the asoociation.

tiful hymn, "God be with you till we meet again.' Don't postpone it, but go and register

As we parted the choir sang the beau-

ALLIANCE GATHERINGS.

Col. L. F. Livingstone, of Georgia, and Col. L. L. Polk to Speak. [Special to the State Chronicle.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 27.—Col. L. F. Livingstone, President of the Farmers' State Alliance in Georgia, and Democratic nominee for Congress from the Atlanta district, will speak in North Carolina at the followng places:

Greensboro, October 4th. Oxford, October 6th. Raleigh, October 7th. Weldon, October 8th. Goldsboro, October 9th. Col. L L. Polk will be with him and will speak at Raleigh, Weldon and Golds-

THE MORAL IS

Keep Away from the Coffin Factory and from Fires.

[Burlington News.]

Col. P. B. Ruffin has been missed from his office and about town for several days past. The reason is he sprained his ankle going to the fire at the coffin factory, and has since been laid up at his home in Hillsboro.

Merit Wins.

We desire to say to our citizens, that for years we have been selling Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Dr. King's New Life Pills, Bucklen's Arnica Salve and Electric Bitters, and have never handled remedies that sell as well, or that have given such universal satisfaction. We do not hesitate to guarantee them every time, and we stand ready to refund the purchase price, if satisfactory results do not follow their use. These remedies have won their great popularity purely on their merits. John

Y. MacRae druggist. W. H. & R. S. TUCKER & CO.

The New Tea Jacket.

And for them we offer all the choicest things-the stuffs to make them-the soft, filmy new crepe effects for the fronts and sleeves, and the daintiest jeweled gimps for the accessories.

Really, these garments are superb.

W. H. & R. S. TUCKER & Co.